APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/784,224	01/16/97	SULLIVAN	A	128-96-003

LM32/1229

L JOY GRIEBENOW
ELECTRONIC DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION
5400 LEGACY DRIVE
H3-3A-05
PLANO TX 75024

EXAMINER
MYHRE, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2762	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/97

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _Jan 16, 1997_

☐ This action is **FINAL.**

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____3_____ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) _1-25_ is/are pending in the applicat

    Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) _1-25_ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

    ☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

        ☐ received.

        ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____ .

        ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    *Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1.   Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 9 and 10 recite the limitation "the control module" in the second line of

each claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. This rejection

could be overcome by changing "the control module" to "a control module".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-7, 11-14, and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Oku in view of Chang.

Claims 1-4, 7, 11-13, 19, 20, and 22: Oku discloses a knowledge [organization activity]

management system with a server connected to clients who may submit a need in the form of a 1st

request (query) to said server, which will use a control module to direct the query to the proper

information source (database), and the said database will return the knowledge items

(information) which answer the need to the client (pg 21, lines 5-26). Oku further discloses the

system is comprised of an activity database, a document database, and a process database connected to each other and to a plurality of client environments (Fig. 42), wherein the process database consists of processes and data items (pg 9, lines 20-24) and is linked to an event database containing the status of the processes (pg 22, line 48-52); and wherein the document database is linked to a relational database (Fig. 42), but does not disclose the internal makeup of the databases. Chang discloses an expert system where in said databases are stored as internal and external (fig. 1, items 11-14) matrices (tables/arrays) to include a "code truth table" (matrix) of keys (pg 2, lines 36-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store information in tables/arrays (matrices) to facilitate querying. It would also have been obvious that the information source could be internal or external to the system. One would have been motivated to use such a method for storing information in view of Oku's description of the databases and querying techniques and the extensive use of external databases throughout the art.

Claims 5, 6, 14, and 21: It is well known in the art that a client could submit numerous needs in a single batch file request in which each individual need is identified. It is also well known in the art that such batch files may be in the form of a grid (i.e. matrix, table, or array). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a grid to identify the needs of the client. One would have been motivated to use such a method for storing and identifying the client's needs in view of Chang's description of matrices in Claim 1 above and in view of the common usage of batch files as input.

4.   Claims 8, 18, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oku

in view of Chang and in further view of Srinivasan.

Claims 8, 18, and 23: Oku discloses using a plurality of clients within an organization

activity management system, but does not disclose using different levels of access authorization to

establish personal profiles of clients. Srinivasan discloses using passwords to differentiate

between different clients/types of clients (pg 3, lines 33-38). Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use personal

and default profiles (access profiles/access authorizations) for each client or type of client. One

would have been motivated to use such a method in view of Oku's description of "client

environments" and the need to identify individual clients (knowledge workers) and their needs.

5.   Claims 9, 15, 17 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Oku in view of Chang and in further view of Srinivasan and Barritz.

Claims 9, 15, and 24: Oku further discloses using a plurality of clients within an

organization activity management system, and Srinivasan discloses identifying each client with a

password to compile personal profiles; but neither discloses capturing data by tracking each

client's system usage. Barritz discloses monitoring and tracking the frequency of user access to

computer programs and software products (pg 1, lines 8-10). Barritz further discloses several

methods that could be used as a watch module for capturing data to determine the proportional

usage by any one of numerous programs/products available. Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to compile

access statistics on the clients usage. One would have been motivated to capture client access

statistics in view of Oku's description of "client environments"and Srinivasan's description of

personal profiles in order to track and report such commonly reported system statistics as access

levels of system components, software, resources, etc.

Claim 17: Oku further discloses a system with a "pending matters" section for viewing

upcoming deadlines, due dates, etc. Srinivasan further discloses an "Auto Multi-Project Server"

which "follows-up with task leaders on pending tasks...." (pg 3, lines 6-7). The monitoring and

tracking feature disclosed by Barritz above could also be used to track pending requests by

placing them in a database referenced by their key identifying element (pg 13, lines 57-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to track pending requests using a database as a queue. One would have been

motivated to use such a method in view of Barritz' description of monitoring and tracking data in

a system and in view of the need to provide delayed answers to client inquiries when the

information is not immediately available.

6.   Claims 10, 16, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oku

in view of Chang and in further view of Srinivasan and Graves.

Claims 10, 16, and 25: As described in Claim 9 above, Oku, Srinivasan, and Barritz

disclose using a watch module to capture client usage statistics, but do not disclose modifying the

personal profiles based on said usage statistics. <u>Graves</u> discloses establishing "personal preference

[pro]files" for each user and a method for modifying said profiles by adjusting weight factors in

response to the user's actions (pg 4, lines 44-48). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to track user access in order to

compile statistics on the user's preferences and to adjust said preferences based on subsequent

statistics. One would have been motivated to use such a method in view of <u>Oku's</u> description of

"client environments", <u>Barritz</u>'s description of capturing client usage statistics, and the need to

keep the clients' personal profiles updated.
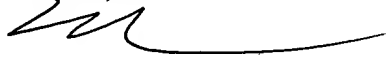
Conclusion

7.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Exr. James W. Myhre whose telephone number is (703) 308-7843. The

examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Allen R. MacDonald, can be reached on (703) 305-9708. The fax number for this

Group is (703) 305-3988.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

ALLEN R. MACDONALD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2308